



BRITISH ACADEMY
TELEVISION AWARDS

supported by **Sky+**

NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

**** STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 08:00 HRS TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2008****

Judi Dench receives record 24th BAFTA nomination (i)

Paul Merton receives his 11th nomination but not for Have I Got News For You

Cranford garners the most nominations with three

Britain's Got Talent and Strictly Come Dancing in face-off

**First BAFTA nominations for Simon Amstell, Alexander Armstrong, Heston Blumenthal
Russell Brand, James Corden, Alan Carr, Justin Lee Collins & Ben Miller**

The Bill & Holby City nominated in Continuing Drama against Emmerdale and EastEnders

The nominations were announced today for the British Academy Television Awards supported by Sky+, which will be held at the London Palladium on Sunday April 20 and hosted by Graham Norton. The Awards will be broadcast on BBC One.

In the *Actress* category **Judi Dench** receives her 12th BAFTA television nomination for her role in **Cranford**, alongside her screen sister **Eileen Atkins** whose last BAFTA TV nomination was back in 1969. They are joined by first-time nominee **Kierston Wareing** for **It's A Free World**, and previous winner **Gina McKee** who receives her third nomination, this time for her role in **The Street**. **Cranford** receives the most nominations with three, and is also nominated for the *Sky+ Audience Award*, the only award within the ceremony voted-for by the public.

Four first-time nominees make up the *Actor* category; **Andrew Garfield** for **Boy A**, **Tom Hardy** for **Stuart: A Life Backwards**, **Matthew Macfadyen** for **Secret Life** while **Antony Sher** receives his first nomination, after a career spanning some thirty years, for **Primo**.

Following his ten previous nominations for Have I Got News For You, Paul Merton picks up his 11th in the *Factual Series* category for **Paul Merton in China**, (one of two nominations for Five this year). Fellow nominees in this category are **Meet The Natives**, **The Tower : A Tale of Two Cities** and **Tribe**.

In the *Entertainment Programme** category, **Britain's Got Talent** goes head-to-head with three-times nominated **Strictly Come Dancing**, nine-time nominee **Have I Got News For You** ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ and second-time nominee **Harry Hill's TV Burp**. **Harry Hill** receives his first nomination in the *Entertainment Performance* category alongside first-time nominees **Simon Amstell** for **Never Mind The Buzzcocks**, **Alan Carr** and **Justin Lee Collins** for **The Friday Night Project** and fourth-time nominee in this category **Stephen Fry** for **QI**.

Heston Blumenthal receives his first nomination in the *Features* category for **Heston Blumenthal: In Search of Perfection**, nominated alongside culinary opponent **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares**, **The Secret Millionaire** and **Top Gear**.

The *Comedy Programme* category exclusively comprises first time nominees with **The Armstrong & Miller Show**, and **Russell Brand's Ponderland** competing with **Star Stories** and **Fonejacker**.

The BBC's **Men's Wimbledon Final** is nominated for the first time since Bjorn Borg faced John McEnroe in 1980, the 2007 tennis final faces three ITV rivals in the *Sport* category including second-time nominee the **Boat Race**, last year's winner **Formula One** (this time for **F1:Canadian Grand Prix Live**) and the **Rugby World Cup 2007, England V France Semi-Final**.

Each of the major news outlets is nominated for this year's *News Coverage* category: **BBC Ten O'Clock News: War in Afghanistan**, **Channel 4 News: Iraq - The Surge**, **ITV Evening News: Zimbabwe – The Tyranny & the Tragedy** and **Sky News** for its **Glasgow Airport Attack**. Whilst in *Interactivity*, **Dr Who Comic Maker**, **Spooks Interactive**, **The X Factor** and Channel 4's **Big Art Mob** fight it out.

Life On Mars, last year's *Audience Award* winner and *Drama Series* nominee is once again nominated in the latter category competing with E4's **Skins**, BBC Two's **Rome** and last year's winner **The Street**.

In the *Single Drama* category, More4 receives its first nomination this year for **The Trial of Tony Blair**, up against **The Mark of Cain**, **Coming Down The Mountain** and two-time nominee **Boy A**. In the hotly-contested *Continuing Drama* category, **The Bill** receives its second BAFTA nomination, joined by fourth-timer **Holby City** and previous winners **EastEnders** and **Emmerdale**. In the last of the drama categories, *Drama Serial*, **Murphy's Law** gets its first-ever nomination, facing competition from **Five Days, Britz** and the year's most nominated **Cranford**.

In the *Specialist Factual*** category, the nominations are **Earth: The Power of the Planet**, **The Genius of Photography**, **The Relief of Belsen** and **Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain** which is also nominated for the *Sky + Audience Award*. *Panorama* receives its ninth nomination in the *Current Affairs* category for **Panorama: Dog-Fighting Undercover**, while *Dispatches* receives its eighth, this time for **Dispatches - Fighting The Taliban**; both face competition from Channel 4's **China's Stolen Children** and **Honour Kills** which is the first nomination in this category for BBC Three.

Another of BBC Three's nominations is **Family Guy** in the *International* category, up against **My Name Is Earl** which was nominated last year, Five's **Californication** and BBC Two's **Heroes**. In the *Single Documentary**** category BBC2's **Beautiful Young Minds**, C4's **Lie of the Land** and BBC4's **Parallel Worlds, Parallel Lives** are up against much talked-about ITV documentary **Malcolm & Barbara: Love's Farewell**.

Stephen Merchant and **David Mitchell** receive individual acclaim this year in the *Comedy Performance* category for **Extras Christmas Special** and **Peep Show** respectively. They go up against new nominee **James Corden** for **Gavin and Stacey** and previous winner **Peter Capaldi** for **The Thick of It**. Both three-time nominee **Peep Show** and **The Thick of It** are also recognised in the *Situation Comedy* category alongside last year's nominee **The IT Crowd** and ITV newcomer **Benidorm**.

Completing this year's line-up is the *Sky+ Audience Award* for the *Programme of the Year*, the only Award of the night decided by the public, and honouring the most loved and admired programmes of 2007. The shortlist was compiled by a panel of TV-related broadcast and print media and comprises **Andrew Marr's History of Modern Britain**, **The Apprentice**, **Britain's Got Talent**, **Cranford**, **Gavin & Stacey** and **Strictly Come Dancing**. Votes are being cast now on www.bestonthebox.com up until April 18 at 00.01 hrs.

For more information regarding this year's British Academy Television Awards supported by Sky+ visit www.bafta.org. For further information on the nominations visit the Event's media partner Radio Times on www.radiotimes.com

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About BAFTA:

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts supports, develops and promotes the art forms of the moving image by identifying and rewarding excellence, inspiring practitioners and benefiting the public.

About Sky+

Sky+, the UK's most popular personal video recorder, allows viewers to pause and rewind live TV, record two channels at the same time, set up series links to record every episode of a show and even set recordings from anywhere in the world via a PC or mobile phone.

Notes to editors:

(i) Judi Dench this year received her 12th BAFTA television nomination, equalling Victoria Wood's record 12 in TV. When added to her 12 nominations for Film, this makes her the most BAFTA-nominated Actress.

(ii) Have I Got News For You has received 9 nominations in the Entertainment Programme category. In addition, performers Paul Merton, Angus Deayton and Boris Johnson have also received nominations for their appearances on the show. These combined nominations total 24 associated nominations – the highest for one show.

For further information on how the channels have fared or for this year's nominees' previous nominations please refer to accompanying documents.

*The Entertainment Programme BAFTA is given in honour of Lew Grade

**Specialist Factual is given in honour of Huw Wheldon

*** Single Documentary is given in honour of Robert Flaherty